

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINGST 03615 271754Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
/068 W

-----073110 280742Z /11

R 271730Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0918
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY NASSAU
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 3615

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, JM
SUBJECT: RUMORED RESIGNATIONS OF SENIOR PNP FIGURES

1. OVER RECENT DAYS THERE HAVE BEEN GROWING RUMORS THAT FORMER FINANCE MINISTER DAVID COORE AND FORMER INDUSTRIES MINISTER VIVIAN BLAKE ARE ABOUT TO RESIGN THEIR PARLIAMENTARY SEATS. ALMOST ALL OF THESE RUMORS ALSO HAVE THEM RESIGNING FROM THE RULING PEOPLE'S NATIONAL PARTY (PNP).

2. ACCORDING TO A CLOSE FRIEND OF COORE, THE FORMER FINANCE MINISTER, WHO CONTINUES TO HOLD THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTERSHIP, IS VERY CLOSE TO RESIGNING FROM PARLIAMENT, AND POSSIBLY EVEN LEAVING JAMAICA ITSELF. AS TO BLAKE, WE HAVE LESS PERSUASIVE INFORMATION. HOWEVER, HE HAS RECENTLY CHOSEN TO DISTANCE HIMSELF FROM THE GOVERNMENT. SEVERAL WEEKS AGO, HE VOICED STRONG OPPOSITION IN PARLIAMENT TO A GOVERNMENT PROPOSAL, WHICH WAS SUBSEQUENTLY ADOPTED, GIVING GOVERNMENT CONTROL OVER ACADEMICALLY-ORIENTED INSTITUTE OF JAMAICA. THE ISSUE IS, OF COURSE, STATE DIRECTION OF CULTURAL AND ACADEMIC ACTIVITY.

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3. IF COORE AND BLAKE RESIGN, BY-ELECTIONS WILL BE REQUIRED. A BY-ELECTION IN ANOTHER CONSTITUENCY MAY ALSO BE REQUIRED. A.G.R. BYFIELD, WHO IS MINISTER OF STATE IN THE EDUCATION MINISTRY (BUT HAS BEEN IN CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY SINCE ERIC BELL BECAME FINANCE MINISTER) SUFFERED A CEREBRAL HEMORRHAGE LAST WEEK. IF HE DOES

NOT RECOVER SUFFICIENTLY, HE COULD BE FORCED TO GIVE
UP HIS SEAT.

4. IF THREE PARLIAMENTARY BY-ELECTIONS ARE REQUIRED,
THE OPPOSITION JAMAICA LABOUR PARTY (JLP) MAY DECIDE TO
RECONSIDER ITS PRESENT BOYCOTT OF ALL ELECTORAL ACTIVITY.
THE JLP CONTINUES TO ASSERT IT WILL NOT ABANDON ITS
BOYCOTT UNTIL ELECTORAL REFORM IS WON, BUT, GIVEN THE
SLUMPING POPULARITY OF THE PNP, IT WILL AT LEAST FACE
STRONG TEMPTATION TO ALTER ITS STANCE.
IRVING

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Message Attributes

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